



APIARY NEWSLETTER

APIARY INSPECTOR RETIRES

Inside this issue:

MARKETING	2
DWV	2
CLASSES	3
SHB	3
NEWS FROM THE HILL	3
NATIONAL HONEY BEE DAY	4

Ed Levi of the Plant Board's Apiary Division has retired May 31, 2011, from the Arkansas State Plant Board after 25 years of distinguished service to the state of Arkansas.

Friends, colleagues and family met for some moments of reminiscing in the training room, May 31st. True to his devotion to educating others about bees and their importance, bees were the theme of the decorations.

Ed admitted that working for the Plant Board in the beginning was a little daunting because for once he needed to be civilly obedient to be an efficient regulator. He then

adapted and began his many years of trying to educate all who would listen on the importance of bees to our environment and way of life. There would be no agriculture if not for bees.

In 2006 Ed received the President's Volunteer Service Award in recognition for his commitment to making a difference through his volunteer service. His volunteer work has taken him to places such as Nepal, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, India, Bangladesh, Ukraine and Guinea.

In parting he said retirement is not an end but rather another stage in his life. He will be selling queen bees beginning in



June. There are missions planned to Egypt and Ethiopia in the near future and other projects in the works. We wish Ed the best of luck in these endeavors and hope he will keep us informed.

NATIONAL HONEY BEE SURVEY UPDATE

Special points of interest:

- Marketing your honey.
- Deformed Wing Virus
- Upcoming beekeeping classes.
- SHB research.

The National Honey Bee Survey was set in motion by USDA to determine what bee pests and diseases we have in the U.S. This information is vital to protect our borders. Some countries wanting to export bees to the U.S. had national surveys showing the conditions of their bees but, the U.S. did not have a National Honey Bee Survey that could legally docu-

ment what conditions don't exist here. That meant that any country meeting the requirement of the international trade agreements could export bees into the U.S. and into any state herein. They could do this because we couldn't legally demonstrate what we didn't have.

We are now completing this survey to protect our bees.

Arkansas has completed 16 of the required 25 surveys per state. We have 9 more to complete.

If you are interested in helping and have at least 10 viable hives in one yard please contact our office. We are trying to collect the remaining samples from the south half of the state

MARKETING SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Arkansas MarketMaker: A Free Direct Marketing Tool to Promote Specialty Products. Ronald Rainey
Associate Professor

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Arkansas MarketMaker (MM) was launched in March 2010 as an online marketing resource available to Arkansas' farmers, businesses, and consumers. Throughout its initial year of operation, the resource has enjoyed solid success in terms of aiding in the promotion and understanding of local food systems, especially farmers' markets

MM is an interactive web resource aimed at promoting the products and businesses of agricultural producers by connecting food producers, distributors, buyers, and sellers to their specific consumer markets. Using a web-based search engine of databases in a GIS (global information system) environment, MarketMaker links food producers with economically viable markets, while aiding in food security and enhanced quality in food supply chains.

Arkansas joined an emerging national network that now features 18 states and a collaboration that features one of the most extensive collections of searchable food industry related data in the country. Farmers, retailers, restaurant owners/chefs, and farmers' market managers all benefit from being connected. Successful MM resource features include customizable farm/business profiles which highlight a specific prod-

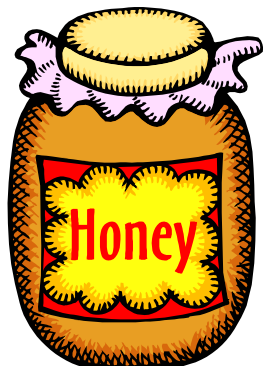
ucts and services; a menu-driven system to conduct market research on food consumption data and consumer profiles; searchable database that can be viewed with a maps to locate products, businesses and markets. The Division of Agriculture has developed numerous MM promotional items as well as updated online educational and marketing resources. A few examples of marketing strategies that MM could easily fit include farm to school, agritourism, or farmer's market activities. The site features a social networking features, FaceBook and Twitter, integrated directly within the site to allow businesses to greatly expand the number of potential customers they can reach with promotional and educational information.

Local food marketing has continued to expand within the state as the number of farmers' markets and growers interested in marketing directly continue to expand. MM is effectively serving this growing sector and experiencing terrific momentum with growers and farmers' markets. Farmers, retailers and institutions are attempting to participate in the local foods momentum at unprecedented levels. Retailers are scrambling to identify viable vendors to supply agricultural products and consumers

are searching for enhanced experiences beyond the consumption of food with a heightened interest in knowing the origins of their food products. As a result, the demand for understanding and transparency of local food system has grown because of the multitude of marketing strategies used and the myriad of product brands ranging from local, to organic, to natural. MM offers a free tool that both producers and consumers can use to better understand their local food market.

According to website analytics, the site averages almost 1,400 users and 17,000 website hits per month since its release in March 2010. The interactive database features a large number of unique farm business profiles, 45 different farmer's markets and over 10,000 non-farm businesses. The Arkansas project is part of the national MarketMaker network which was recognized by National Institute of Food and Agriculture with a 2010 Partnership Award.

If you want to learn more about Arkansas MarketMaker, visit the resource website, www.uaex.edu/marketmaker. Also feel free to contact the MarketMaker project director, Ron Rainey, at marketmaker@uaex.edu or your local county Extension office.



"MarketMaker links food producers with economically viable markets..."

DEFORMED WING VIRUS



Deformed bee

Viruses are pieces of genetic material that parasitize a host cell, making the cell produce more viruses. No vaccines or medications are available for any of the honey bee viruses; however, new RNA Silencing technology may soon provide a means to reverse

virus symptoms in DWV and other bee viruses. Until then, good sanitation practices are the key to prevention. Comb replacement, requeening, and Integrated Management of Varroa mites are the best practical responses to a virus infection. DWV appears to be associated with parasitic Varroa

mites which are known to spread the virus or at least activate it.

There is no cure for a virus. To preserve your other hives the best choice may be destroying the infected colony

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

Jon Zawislak, from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, will be offering more free Beginning Beekeeping short courses. These 3-part evening classes will include a tour of the bee hive and other equipment, an introduction to honey bee biology, and explain how to keep honey bees healthy. The course will also walk through the first two years with a new bee hive -- from getting started to harvesting honey and successful overwin-

tering a colony.

August 8, 15 & 22, 6:30-9:00 pm

John E. Miller Bldg, Ozarka College, Melbourne, AR

To register or for more information, call the Izard County Extension Office at 870-368-4323

September 12, 19 & 26, 6:00-9:00 pm

Extension Homemakers House on 2nd Street (behind the

Courthouse), Nashville, AR
To register or for more information, call the Howard County Extension Office at 870-845-7517

For more information, visit us on the web at:
<http://www.aragriculture.org/insects/bees/events.htm>

Initial meeting of the new River Valley Beekeepers Association on July 11. Contact Jon for details/location.



SMALL HIVE BEETLE RESEARCH

Graduate student, Natasha Wright, has begun her work on small hive beetles (SHB) in Arkansas. She is studying the microbial enemies of SHB, anatomy of SHB, and several aspects of their behavior and life cycle. On June 13 she made a presentation to the NW AR Beekeeping Association and on

June 20 to the Ouachita Beekeeping Association, on her research. The title of her talk is "Pathogens and Biological Control of Small Hive Beetles in Arkansas" by N. Wright and D. Steinkraus. Natasha is looking for beekeepers throughout Arkansas to collect SHB from their hives for her

study. Please contact her at: [<nawright@uark.edu>](mailto:nawright@uark.edu) and she can send you instructions and a kit and free shipping with a FedEx envelope. This research is funded by the California State Beekeeper's Association.

"Help bee research by sending in samples"

NEWS FROM THE HILL

Dr. Steinkraus taught the University of Arkansas apiculture course, ENTO4043, during Spring 2011. The students had hands-on experience building hives, installing bees, catching swarms, observing bee behaviors, bee anatomy, and many other aspects of honey bee biology and management. Special thanks to Ed Levi for guest lectures and demonstrations during the class. Dr. Steinkraus published an article in American Bee Journal, April 2011, "How to Make a Steinkraus-Morse Swarm

Catcher". This article is based on 15 years of experimentation on the best and easiest way to capture swarms 5-30 feet high. He named the catcher to honor his father, Dr. Keith H. Steinkraus and his apiculture professor at Cornell, Dr. Roger Morse, both deceased. Keith and Roger worked together on honey wines fermentations, honey characteristics, and also American foulbrood in honeys. Dr. Steinkraus also gave three talks and one workshop at the Missouri State Beekeeper Association meeting in

Branson, MO, March 10-12, 2011. His talks were "Honey Bee Nutrition: Food for Thought", "Astounding Stories of Bees Being Killed and Killing", "Anatomy of the Honey Bee". This was a fun meeting. Dr. Steinkraus gave the Master Gardeners of Washington County a class in beekeeping on February 24, 2011, and one to the Master Naturalist Class at Lake Dardanelle on February 12, 2011.



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August 20, 2011 is
National Honey
Bee Day. Visit the
web site and see
what you or your
organization can
do to help.

